

alternative selecting means adapted to select an alternative instance of the downstream network function not belonging to the predetermined group each time when a second initiating transaction different from the first initiating transaction is requested from the apparatus; and

requesting means adapted to request a downstream transaction from an instance of the predetermined group if the first initiating transaction is requested in order to complete the first initiating transaction and to request the downstream transaction from the alternative instance if the second initiating transaction is requested in order to complete the second initiating transaction.

46. The apparatus according to claim **45**, the first initiating transaction is different from the second initiating transaction by at least one of an access point name, a subscription information, and a requested quality of service.

47. The apparatus according to claim **45**, wherein the predetermined group of instances of the downstream network function comprises only one instance.

48. The apparatus according to claim **47**, wherein the downstream network function is a policy and charging rules function.

49. The apparatus according to claim **45**, wherein the downstream network function resides on a different plane than the apparatus.

50. Method, comprising:

configuring one or more instances of an initiating network function such that each time when a first initiating transaction is requested from any of the instances of the initiating network function the respective instance of the initiating network function requests a downstream transaction from an instance of a predefined group of one or more instances of a downstream network function, and

configuring the one or more instances of the initiating network function such that each time when a second initiating transaction different from the first initiating transaction is requested from any of the instances of the initiating network function the respective instance of the initiating network function requests the downstream transaction from an instance of the downstream network function not belonging to the predefined group.

51. The method according to claim **50**, wherein the first initiating transaction is different from the second initiating transaction by at least one of an access point name, a subscription information, and a requested quality of service.

52. The method according to claim **50**, wherein the predefined group of one or more instances of the downstream network function comprises only one instance.

53. The method according to claim **52**, wherein the downstream network function is a policy and charging rules function.

54. The method according to claim **50**, wherein the initiating network function resides on a different plane than the downstream network function.

55. Method, comprising:

selecting a predetermined group of instances of a downstream network function each time when a first initiating transaction is requested from an apparatus performing the method;

selecting an alternative instance of the downstream network function not belonging to the predetermined group each time when a second initiating transaction different from the first initiating transaction is requested from the apparatus; and

requesting a downstream transaction from an instance of the predetermined group if the first initiating transaction is requested in order to complete the first initiating transaction and to request the downstream transaction from the alternative instance if the second initiating transaction is requested in order to complete the second initiating transaction.

56. The method according to claim **55**, the first initiating transaction is different from the second initiating transaction by at least one of an access point name, a subscription information, and a requested quality of service.

57. The method according to claim **55**, wherein the predetermined group of instances of the downstream network function comprises only one instance.

58. The method according to claim **57**, wherein the downstream network function is a policy and charging rules function.

59. The method according to claim **55**, wherein the downstream network function resides on a different plane than the apparatus.

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